

but of different plumage. This last will probably have been the immature *Bambusicola sonorivox*.

Amoy, 17 June, 1866.

. The following is an extract from a letter, dated "4th May, 1866," from Mr. Swinhoe, which unfortunately did not reach us until after the publication of our last Number. "If you have not yet printed my paper on recent novelties from Formosa, I must ask you to correct an error for me. I have now a goodly series of Green Pigeons, and find them to be as variable in colour, form, and size of bill, and other proportions, as Mr. Darwin could desire. I think I was wrong in making *three* species. The skins of the first *Sphenocercus sororius* that I received were so badly stuffed that I could not then reconcile them with what I considered the third form, my *Treron chaeroboeatis* [*anteà*, p. 313]. Now, however, after examining a large series, I consider the two last to be identical, and I should be obliged by your uniting them under the first name, *Sphenocercus sororius*. *Treron formosæ* is a good species; but, with the exception of some slight differences in the tail, I think there is scarcely enough to justify the two forms being referred to distinct genera, though I believe I am right in referring *sororius* to *Sphenocercus*, and *formosæ* to *Treron*."—ED.

XXXII.—*Note on the Distribution of the Species of Chasmorhynchus.* By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.

IN Mr. Salvin's excellent article upon the wonderful Bell-bird of Costa Rica (*Chasmorhynchus tricarunculatus*) and its allies, published in last year's 'Ibis' (1865, p. 90), he follows M. Temminck and myself* in giving "Brazil" as the locality of *C. variegatus*. I have lately discovered that this locality, vague as it is, is most probably altogether incorrect. During my visit to Copenhagen last year, Professor Reinhardt was kind enough to show me an example of this species in the Royal Museum, obtained by a correspondent of that Institution, M. Schibby, near Valencia, in Venezuela. In the 'Museum Heineanum' (vol. ii. p. 108) Messrs. Cabanis and Heine give Puerto Cabello, on the coast of the same republic, as the

* Cat. Am. Birds, p. 258.

locality of the specimens of this bird in Herr Heine's collection. That this is the correct *patria* of *C. variegatus* is again confirmed by the recent receipt of examples of this bird by my friend Mr. E. C. Taylor, from Trinidad, which, as is well known, has a purely Venezuelan fauna. In his interesting article upon the birds of Trinidad, in the 'Ibis' for 1864, Mr. Taylor has recorded (p. 88) the occurrence of the Bell-bird of Cayenne (*C. albus*) in Trinidad. It turns out, however, that he was mistaken as to the exact species of this group which inhabits the forests of that island, not having at that time obtained skins of the bird, and only having identified it by its reputation and Creole name. Two examples of the Trinidadian Bell-bird, recently forwarded from that island to Mr. Taylor by Mr. Deverish, Superintendent of Roads, having been obtained in the woods of the Bande de l'Est, most undoubtedly belong to *C. variegatus*. We see, therefore, that each of the four known species of this extraordinary form occupies a different area in the Neotropical Region. These areas seem to correspond nearly to those of the four species of Jacamar allied to *Galbula viridis*, to which I have formerly called attention* :—

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1. Central American Isthmus....	<i>C. tricarunculatus.</i>	<i>G. melanogenia.</i>
2. Coast of Venezuela and Trinidad	<i>C. variegatus.</i>	<i>G. ruficauda.</i>
3. Guiana.....	<i>C. albus.</i>	<i>G. viridis.</i>
4. Coast-region of South-east Brazil	<i>C. nudicollis.</i>	<i>G. rufoviridis.</i>

I may take this opportunity of mentioning that we have now a very fine male of the Brazilian *Chasmorhynchus nudicollis* living in the Zoological Society's Gardens—so far as I know, the first of this species ever introduced alive into England. This bird is now in full song. His notes, one of which, as is well known, closely resembles the sound produced by striking a piece of steel on a small anvil, are of the most extraordinary character, and such as one would scarcely believe any bird capable of producing. The noisy group of Parrots around him seem to be completely overwhelmed by the volume of sound.

11 Hanover Square,

July 14th, 1866.

* Jardine's Contrib. 1852, p. 93.

XXXIII.—*Notices of Recent Ornithological Publications.*

1. ENGLISH.

THE long expected work of our great descriptive Anatomist on the Vertebrates has made its appearance*; and in it the class *Aves* (if, *pace* Professor Huxley and Mr. Parker, we may still be allowed to speak of birds as a “Class”) comes in for a fair share of attention, occupying as it does nearly half the volume. Owing probably to their comparatively speaking uniform type of structure and mode of development, birds hitherto have certainly been neglected by the greatest anatomists, and we rejoice to think that at length the English reader is put in possession of a general treatise on the subject; for since Professor Owen, some thirty years ago, wrote the article “*Aves*” in Dr. Todd’s well-known ‘Cyclopædia of Anatomy,’ we can call to mind nothing really worth the name. The high standing of the author of the present work renders it unnecessary for us to say anything to recommend its descriptive part, and we feel it would be out of place here to discuss any of the theories to which reference is more or less fully made by him. If, however, it be permitted to us, we venture, with all respect to Professor Owen, to complain that his opinions on the systematic arrangement of birds from an anatomical point of view are not expressed with the degree of clearness we had expected; for on this subject we had always looked forward to his labours throwing great light. Near the beginning of the volume (pp. 9–12) we find, it is true, an enumeration of “the orders, with their characters and sample families, adopted as most convenient for the purpose of the present work.” These are seven in number, viz. *Natatores*, *Grallatores*, *Rasores*, *Cantores*, *Volitores*, *Scansores*, and *Raptores*; and we are further told that “An eighth group of birds has been characterised under the name CURSORES * * *. This is not, however, a natural order; some of its exponents have demonstrably closer affinities to other groups of which they are wingless members,

* On the Anatomy of Vertebrates. Vol. ii. Birds and Mammals. By RICHARD OWEN, F.R.S., Superintendent of the Natural History Departments of the British Museum, Foreign Associate of the Institute of France &c. London: 1866. 8vo.